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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package, comprising in combination,

- a) a continuous web of substantially constant thickness packaging material, said web having width and selectable running length, said width defining the side edges of said web, and
- b) a plurality of discrete strip strips of substantially constant thickness flexible material, each said strip having length and width, said strip width defining the strip ends, said strip length having top and bottom edges and being substantially greater than said strip width, said strip length of successive ones of each of said plurality of discrete strips being secured at package length intervals transversely to the running length of said web of packaging material along the strip top edge and being substantially unsecured along its bottom edge.

2. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1, wherein one end of each of said strip plurality of discrete strips is substantially congruent with one of said side edges of said web.

3. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1, wherein one end of each of said strip plurality of discrete strips is substantially congruent with one side edge of said web, and the other side edge of said web is disposed at a distance beyond the other end of said strip strips sufficient to provide a margin of web material for the formation of an overlap package seal.

4. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1, wherein both side edges of said web are disposed at a distance beyond the ends of said strip strips sufficient to provide side margins of web material for the formation of a package fin seal.

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5. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said strip plurality of discrete strips is secured to said packaging material substantially continuously along its top edge.

6. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said strip plurality of discrete strips is secured to said packaging material substantially continuously along its top edge and opposite ends.

7. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said strip plurality of discrete strips is secured to said packaging material for a short length substantially centrally along its bottom edge.

8. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1 wherein said packaging material and said strip plurality of discrete strips are both single thickness mono-layer materials.

9. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1 wherein said packaging material is a single thickness multi-layer material.

10. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said strip plurality of discrete strips is a single thickness multi-layer material.

11. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1 wherein said packaging material and said strip plurality of discrete strips are both single thickness multi-layer materials.

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12. (currently amended) A composite web of packaging ~~Packaging~~ material for forming a flexible package as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of said strip ~~plurality of discrete strips~~ is secured to said packaging material for a length along its bottom edge.